



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: ALEX EATON		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT ACTION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 1440 W TAYLOR			
CITY: CHICAGO		STATE: IL	ZIP: 60607
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ALMA SUSAN RODGERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:22 AM	
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Early voting encourage and facilitates voter participation, critical to democracy. Also reduces stress on election workers making elections less vulnerable to disruption.
A presidential primary encourages greater participation because voters can access primaries over longer voting periods allowing more thoughtful participation.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: AMY HAMMERMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS		TITLE: STATE POLICY ADVOCATE
ADDRESS: 311 N. LINDBERGH BLVD.		
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63141
EMAIL: akuo.hammerman@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 12:58 PM

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Testimony in support of House Bill 1871
Presented to the Missouri House Elections Committee
Representative Rodger Reedy, Chair
January 13, 20256

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support House Bill 1871. My name is Amy Kuo Hammerman and I am the Missouri State Policy Advocate for National Council of Jewish Women, based in St. Louis (NCJWSTL). NCJWSTL is a non-profit organization in metropolitan St. Louis, representing over 5,000 members and supporters throughout the state. We focus our work on community service, advocacy, education and philanthropy to improve the quality of life for women, children and families while supporting individual and civil rights, and have been doing so since 1895.

NCJWSTL works to promote and protect the right to vote. Our goal is for every eligible voter to be able to cast a ballot and engage in all levels of government in a meaningful way. HB 1871 includes several provisions which increase access to the ballot in significant ways. Notably, the reinstatement of presidential primary elections, as opposed to the relatively new primary caucuses, allows the general electorate to participate in the important process of electing the President of the United States rather than requiring party membership to do so. Moreover, it would expand the access to vote by extended no-excuse absentee voting from two to four weeks and by expanding provisional ballots to those voting absentee to all public elections in Missouri. Increasing the access of eligible voters to use their voices in participating in our governance makes for a stronger democracy.

We urge you to vote YES on HB 1871.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA MICHELE BRESHEARS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:49 PM
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Early voting facilitates voter participation. It reduces stress on election workers and makes elections less vulnerable to disruption.

Likewise, a presidential primary encourages greater participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods, while caucuses have a limited window for participation and have seen low turnout.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CAROL A. SCHREIBER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 4:26 PM
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I strongly support HB 1871. We do need a presidential primary. The process in 2024 was not satisfactory. If there are real primary campaigns, Missourians need to be able to choose the party nominees. I support increasing early voting to 4 weeks, because that mirrors absentee voting. I support voters being allowed to change their address on Election Day. This will cut down on confusion for voters. Disability voters need to have their personal data private. I strongly believe that voters using a provisional ballot should be able to vote during early voting. As a person who tries to educate voters about voting, it is important to make voting as easy and straight forward as possible. I would like to see the percentage of eligible voters actually voting to be much higher. I think these common sense changes will help that happen.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROL ELLIOTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:04 AM	

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The system of caucuses for presidential primaries did not work well for the citizens of Missouri in the 2024 election. I agree with the actions outlined in this bill to return to the system of state-run presidential primaries.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 5:26 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: COLLEEN TEPEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 11:54 PM	
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Fair voting is crucial to a healthy democracy, that's why I support this bill.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA KAY CART		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:02 PM
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I support HB 1871 because we know that early voting facilitates both voter participation, and this additional time helps to reduce stress on election workers.

The presidential primary that we have had in Missouri in the past is important to achieve greater voter participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods. Caucuses have a limited window for participation and have seen low turnout.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CYNTHIA MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:50 AM	
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I support this. I love being able to vote early and want the access expanded. More and more people are discovering the benefit and convenience of this. It makes the long election day where I am a judge run more smoothly because the lines are shorter and more manageable.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANIELLE G SCHULTE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 7:12 PM	
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I urging you to pass and support HB 1871. I have reviewed the bill and note the following:

- It reduces stress on election workers and makes elections less vulnerable to disruption.
- 2. A presidential primary encourages greater participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods while caucuses have a limited window for participation and have seen low turnout.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DAVE WEBSTER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 10:57 PM
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This is a great idea! Frequently the lines to get in to vote are long, especially when there are only a few locations to vote early.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH HAYS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 7:01 PM	
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I am a poll judge and support the idea of extending the time people can vote early in elections. It helps keep the wait down for those who otherwise vote on the day of the election.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DENISE LIEBERMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-780-1833	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION; MOVPC ACTION		TITLE: DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL	
ADDRESS: 6047 WATERMAN BLVD			
CITY: SAINT LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63112
EMAIL: denise@deniselieberman.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 1:15 AM	
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The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC) submits this testimony in support of HB 1871, which provides positive improvements to election administration and voter access.

The Missouri Voter Protection Coalition is Missouri’s statewide nonpartisan network of voter advocates who advance the right to vote for all Missouri citizens through policy advocacy, strategic litigation, voter education and Election Protection. Through the collective experience and expertise of our 70+ partner organizations, MOVPC has provided this Committee with analysis and assessment of how pending legislation stands to impact access to the ballot for Missouri’s voters. MOVPC Action is our organization’s non-partisan 501C4 entity.

Among its provisions, HB 1871:

- Reinstates presidential preference primary;
- Extends candidate filing deadline;
- Extends no-excuse absentee voting from 2 weeks to 4 weeks;
- Moves location for interstate and new residents to register and vote on election day from polling place to election authority office.
- Requires permanent disability absentee voter list to be confidential and not publicly posted.
- Extends access to provisional ballots to those voting absentee and to all public elections in Missouri - including allowing provisional ballots during in person absentee voting and during municipal elections, which is currently not allowed.
- Expands buffer zone from 25-ft to 50 feet.

In particular, MOVPC Action particularly supports the bill’s expansion of no-excuse absentee voting from two to four weeks. While Missourians may apply for and cast absentee ballots beginning six weeks before Election Day, doing so requires attesting to one of six narrow statutory reasons the voter is unable to cast their ballot on election day, except during the final two weeks before Election Day, where voters may cast an absentee ballot in person without providing a reason. Two weeks of no-excuse absentee voting has been in place since the 2022 general elections, and has been lauded by voters and election officials alike. It provides voters with options to cast their ballots outside of a single day, and eases the crowds and burdens on local election authorities on Election Day.

Indeed, no-excuse absentee voting has been enormously popular among among voters and elected

officials across the political spectrum. Extending these options will help ensure that voters with varying work, transportation and family burdens are able to cast their ballots while also easing Election Day burdens on local election officials. MOVPC Action also points to the bill's extension of provisional voting to the no-excuse absentee voting period and to municipal elections. Provisional ballots are an important failsafe for in-person voters whose eligibility or identity cannot be immediately confirmed. Provisional ballots are guaranteed in federal elections under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that such voters have an option to cast a ballot that can be counted once their eligibility can be further vetted after election day. Yet, this option is not currently available for in-person early voters, or voters in non-federal elections.

Notably, under Missouri's photo ID requirement to vote - which requires in-person voters to provide a non-expired or recently expired Missouri or federal ID - allows voters who appear on Election Day without one of the limited forms of ID required under the law to cast a provisional ballot that will be counted if the voter's signature matches the voter's registration signature on file with the election authority. Yet, this option is not available for in-person early voters, who are currently turned away without the ability to cast a ballot if they lack one of the limited forms of ID, or if their eligibility cannot be immediately established. Similarly, this option is not available for these same voters who appear to cast ballots in local elections, who are summarily turned away without any option to vote if they lack valid ID or cannot establish their eligibility.

The current model creates two tiers of voters and two tiers of elections, and creates an automatic bar to voting for those who do not present valid ID at the polls but only if they do so during the early voting period or during municipal elections. This bill extends this right to all voters, in every election.

MOVPC Action also supports reinstatement of the Presidential Preference Primary, which affords greater opportunity for voter participation than the current party caucus system.

We do not support extending the current 25-foot buffer zone in the interests of preserving and protecting fundamental first amendment protections for speech and electioneering. The further the buffer zone, the greater the likelihood of effectively silencing political speech. Of course, a reasonable buffer zone helps ensure that voters are able to enter and exit the polling place without interference, but extending the buffer zone too far impedes the protected first amendment rights of citizens to advocate for their issues and candidates.

Overall, HB 1871 provides valuable improvements to election administration and voter access and for that reason, we urge this committee to Support HB 1871.

Sincerely,
Denise Lieberman, Director & General Counsel
MISSOURI VOTER PROTECTION COALITION
MOVPC Action
6047 Waterman Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63112
denise@movpc.org
(314) 780-1833
www.movpc.org



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANE BROWN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:01 PM	

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As older voters, my husband and I would appreciate the increased time frame for “no excuse” voting. It’s always a good thing to take actions that make voting easier.



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WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: DIANE THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER: 660-747-6161
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: COUNTY OF JOHNSON		TITLE: JOHNSON COUNTY CLERK
ADDRESS: 300 N HOLDEN ST		
CITY: WARRENSBURG		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 64093
EMAIL: dthompson@jocomo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/9/2026 4:14 PM

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As a local election authority for Johnson County, I am in full support of the proposed legislative changes in HB 1871. There are many good points to this bill. Chief among them the expanded use of blue provisional ballot envelopes during the absentee process; amending the filing dates for the April General Municipal Election to not overlap with the Christmas/New Year holidays; expanding the no excuse absentee voting period from two weeks to four and modifying 115.453(4) so that all write-in candidates must file a declaration of intent in order to be counted. April elections are notorious for having "open" seats where no candidates file, therefore requiring that all names written in be hand tallied and certified to the respective district. In one election we spent two days sifting through ballots to tally and certify 87 names to our Emergency Services board and 35 names to one of our Fire Protection Districts. The proposed change to that section of law would remedy that issue.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: EA FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 7:30 AM
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I strongly support HB 1871. Rep. McGaugh's bill is extremely important to all voters of MO. The extension of no-excuse voting to four weeks will allow many voters to more easily participate and cast a ballot. I commend the Representative for this provision. I appreciate the permanent disability absentee voter list confidentiality provision. It is important for these folks to have privacy given their disability and need for safety. The buffer zone provision is acceptable but I'd suggest not making it any more than 50 feet just due to logistics at some polling locations. In all, I strongly support the bill and hope that it's early hearing is a sign that passage will come swiftly. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH VANDERHEYDEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:18 PM	

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I am in favor of reinstating presidential primaries. This will allow for greater citizen engagement in the selecting party's nominee.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ELLEN WENTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:31 PM	
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HB 1871 helps everyone vote. I support this measure.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: FRANK DONALD ECKELMANN, JR.		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 5:54 PM
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Reinstates presidential preference primary;
Extends candidate filing deadline;
Extends no-excuse absentee voting from 2 weeks to 4 weeks;
Moves location for interstate and new residents to register and vote on election day from polling place to election authority office.
Requires permanent disability absentee voter list to be confidential and not publicly posted.
Extends access to provisional ballots to those voting absentee and to all public elections in Missouri (would extend to municipal elections).
Expands buffer zone from 25-ft to 50 feet.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GREG WOODHAMS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:31 AM
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I support HB 1871. Expanding the period of no-excuse absentee voting (early voting) from two weeks to four weeks encourages voter participation and lessens stress on election workers. It also makes our voting system less susceptible to disruption. In addition, re-introducing the presidential primary also encourages voter participation. The caucus system doesn't work well and excludes shift workers and people that need to care for other family members.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANET BRAGGS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:45 PM
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I support passage of HB 1871 for the following reasons:

Early voting, absentee voting, and presidential primaries encourage greater participation by Missouri residents.

Early voting and no-excuse absentee voting, whether by mail or in person, significantly facilitate voter participation by allowing individuals to cast their ballots over an extended period, thereby reducing the stress on election workers and minimizing the potential for disruptions during elections.

Presidential primaries have proven to be more effective at eliciting voter participation and engagement as compared to caucuses, which typically have a limited participation window and have reported low turnout.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JESSE CHILCUTT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 12:25 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Hello, I am testifying in favor of HB1871 because our states democracy is fundamentally lacking in civilian engagement in our systems. This makes that easier, and more accessible. Frankly it is an affront to democracy the fact it isn't already a requirement for presidential primaries to take place in our state, and this can hopefully right that wrong. On top of that, expanding access to municipal elections will expand communities engagement in their own community, and built a system where the people actually make the decisions in their own community.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JODETTE LENSER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 5:59 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Allowing early and absentee voting ensures that more citizens can submit their votes, and additionally reduces the stress on the election administration workers processing the votes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JONYA PACEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:24 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support no-excuse absentee voting either by mail or in person, advance voting and measures that facilitate participation in the election process and expand all forms of early voting and work to reduce election administration stress.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JOYCE ANN FRANKLIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:23 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JULIE ANN TIETZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:11 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I support this bill because it increases access to democratic processes. Fair elections are a vital part of the democratic process.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHIE L ALLISON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I stongly support no-excuse absentee voting either by mail or in person, advance voting and measures that facilitate participation in the election process and expand all forms of early voting and work to reduce election administration stress



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHY J MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:21 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Early voting facilitates voter participation.

It reduces stress on election workers and makes elections less vulnerable to disruption.

A presidential primary encourages greater participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods while caucuses have a limited window for participation and have seen low turnout.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: KAY PARK		PHONE NUMBER: 314-368-1178	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI	
ADDRESS: 9888 OLD WARSON RD			
CITY: ST LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63124
EMAIL: kaypark122@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 6:19 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The League of Women voters of Missouri supports HB1871.

The League supports no-excuse absentee voting. This bill lengthens in person no-excuse voting from 2 weeks to 4 weeks which will facilitate more voter participation.

This bill also reinstates the presidential primary which enhances representation of more voters than caucuses.

The League urges the MO House to support HB1871 in support of making voting easier for Missouri citizens.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KELLY SUTTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:59 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KEVINGARNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KRISTI L BRANSTETTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 3:28 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB 1871. As a person with a disability, my name should be held in confidence if I should ever become a permanent absentee voter. As a part of our democracy, Presidential primaries need to be held here in Missouri once again. No-excuse absentee voting needs to be four weeks instead of two weeks. Filing deadlines for candidates need to be extended.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KURT BAHR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: LAURA J HOLLOWAY		PHONE NUMBER: 573-635-9134
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ADDRESS: MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, 1727 SOUTHRIDGE DR.		
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: Lholloway@mocities.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:30 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Missouri Municipal League supports the provision of this bill that keeps the candidate filing deadline from landing on a federal holiday. This is helpful to clerks statewide.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA HEADRICK-SETZER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:58 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I strongly support this bill. Lengthening the no-excuse voting period will be an enormous help to my family and friends as we juggle many obligations but still want to make our voices heard through our votes. Thank you.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA KAY SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 7:12 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a Missouri voter, I strongly support no-excuse absentee voting either by mail or in person, advance voting and measures that facilitate participation in the election process and expand all forms of early voting and work to reduce election administration stress. (LWVMO Guide to State Action, page 6, 16)

As a member of the League of Women Voters, I support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA KRAM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:13 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA PHILLIPS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 11:48 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Early voting facilitates voter participation.

It reduces stress on election workers and makes elections less vulnerable to disruption.

A presidential primary encourages greater participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods while caucuses have a limited window.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA S. HANSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:50 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As a board member of the Metro St Louis League of Women Voters, I am fully supporting HB 1871. We believe every Missouri registered voter must have every opportunity to participate in the voting process and this bill helps greater opportunity to be represented. Voters must have flexibility to be involved due to work schedules, disability, and other situational issues i.e., out of town/vacations and this legislation would ensure that right to vote.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORI SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:45 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I urge your support for HB 1871. There are several important provisions in this bill; —reinstating the presidential preference primary, -extending no-excuse absentee voting from 2 weeks to 4 weeks, requiring the permanent disability absentee voter list to be confidential and not publicly posted, and extending access to provisional ballots to those voting absentee and to all public elections in Missouri (would extend to municipal elections). It also expands the buffer zone for electioneering from 25 feet to 50 feet. I assume the bill sponsor has a good faith reason for including this provision but I am not in support of any increase beyond 50 feet. Overall HB 1871 will provide Missouri voters with important election benefits and I urge your yes vote.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LYDIA STEINKOETTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:45 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill enhances voter access and convenience, it improves voter privacy, protects election integrity and reinstates presidential preference primary. All of these things support a democracy.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE L SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 7:00 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support this bill, which would expand no-excuse absentee voting and thus facilitate participation in the election process and reduce election administration stress. Early absentee voting is very popular and makes voting accessible for more people, which can only make our democracy healthier.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA L CRANDALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 3:56 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Early voting is a more efficient way to conduct elections that are truly democratic as they give more people access to the polls.
Presidential primaries are more democratic since they allow voters to participate who couldn't attend a caucus because of schedules or distance.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA L REED		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:57 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I urge your support for HB 1871.

This bill strengthens Missouri's democracy by expanding access to voting while preserving election integrity. Restoring the presidential primary, extending candidate filing deadlines, and expanding no-excuse absentee voting make participation more accessible for working voters, older adults, and people with disabilities.

Protecting the confidentiality of voters with permanent disabilities and expanding access to provisional ballots are essential safeguards that ensure eligible voters are not unfairly excluded.

HB 1871 supports voters, not parties. I respectfully ask for your support.

Respectfully,
Marcia Reed
Holts Summit, MO



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MARCUS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 5:45 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Please pass this very critical bill to ensure safe and honest and democratic elections in Missouri.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 3:52 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support this bill because of the various aspects that will make voting more accessible to citizens. This bill includes several important improvements, such as expanding in-person, no-excuse voting from 2 weeks to 4 weeks. This will facilitate more voter participation by adding more opportunities to vote. It also helps election authorities in managing their work. The bill also provides that provisional ballots are available in any election which will allow a citizen to vote who does not have a voter ID but is eligible to vote.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER: 314-961-6869	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MO		TITLE: BOARD MEMBER	
ADDRESS: 8706 MANCHESTER RD			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARSHA LERENBERG		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:51 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I'm submitting this testimony to urge your support for HB 1871. Among the important provisions in this bill, it would reinstate the presidential preference primary, extend no-excuse absentee voting from 2 weeks to 4 weeks, require the permanent disability absentee voter list to be confidential and not publicly posted, and extends access to provisional ballots to those voting absentee and to all public elections in Missouri (would extend to municipal elections). It also expands the buffer zone for electioneering from 25 feet to 50 feet. I assume the bill sponsor has a good faith reason for including this provision but I am not in support of any increase beyond 50 feet. Overall HB 1871 will provide Missouri voters with important election benefits and I urge your yes vote.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARY CALHOUN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:51 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I would like to submit my testimony in support of HB1871. As a Missouri voter, I consider it essential to our democratic process to put as few obstacles as possible around voting. Obstacles to voting imply that politicians do not want the people's voices to be heard, and that is why I want to remove obstacles to provisional ballot voting.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MAUREEN JORDAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:42 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We must reinstate primary voting for Presidential elections! Chosing a candidate for any political party is of utmost importance. This is not a partisan issue! All the other aspects of HB 1871 further our goals for free and fair elections.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELANIE BUSSE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 6:49 PM	
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Extending no-excuse absentee voting from two to four weeks is a positive step for voters. It also reduces stress on election workers and makes elections safer.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELINDA RESTIVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 6:23 PM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VON ROHR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:26 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB 1871 because early voting facilitates voter participation. It reduces stress on election workers and makes elections less vulnerable to disruption.

A presidential primary encourages greater participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods while caucuses have a limited window for participation and have seen low turnout. I have personally taken advantage of early voting so I can vote at times that don't interfere with my work schedule.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MILLIE FORTUNEGILPIN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 6:46 AM
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I believe it's important to provide ample time for all Missourians to be able to vote. This takes stress off of elections workers & Missourians who have multiple responsibilities



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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY COPENHAVER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY ZELIFF		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 6:23 PM	
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Early voting facilitates voter participation. It reduces stress on election workers and makes elections less vulnerable to disruption. A presidential primary encourages greater participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods while caucuses have a limited window for participation and have seen low turnout.



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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: OTTO FAJEN		PHONE NUMBER: 573-634-3202	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NEA		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE POLICY	
ADDRESS: 1810 EAST ELM ST.			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL: otto.fajen@mnea.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:41 PM	
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The Association appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1871 filed by Rep. Peggy McGaugh. The Association supports the bill. The Association believes that barriers that reduce access to voting and participation in the political process should be removed to allow for involvement by all eligible citizens. The bill would enact many changes to the state's election law and procedures. In particular, the Association supports lengthening the in-person, no-excuse absentee voting period from two to four weeks and providing that all lists of absentee ballot applications for people with permanent disabilities will be kept confidential. Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on this legislation.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAMELA L GRANT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 7:07 PM	
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Increased time for no excuse early voting and participation in presidential primary encourages voter turnout. It's vital to democracy to have voter participation.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: PAT KELLY		PHONE NUMBER: 314-726-4747	
REPRESENTING: MUNICIPAL LEAGUE OF METRO ST. LOUIS		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 11911 DORSETT ROAD			
CITY: MARYLAND HEIGHTS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63043
EMAIL: Pkelly@stlmuni.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:25 AM	
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The Municipal League supports HB 1871, specifically the provision that fixes the candidate file date issue



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICK J MUELLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 12:13 PM	
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Early voting allows hard working people and older voters with special needs to participate in our democracy. Without the flexibility early voting provides, many Americans would be unable to vote.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PAUL JOHN GRITTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:37 AM	
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Given the ebb and flow of folks moving in and out of District 121; this is important because it allows for new residents to register quickly, and participate in our electoral process.
I appreciate and approve this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL SLAUGHTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:42 AM	
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Reinstates presidential preference primary;
Extends candidate filing deadline;
Extends no-excuse absentee voting from 2 weeks to 4 weeks;
Moves location for interstate and new residents to register and vote on election day from polling place to election authority office.
Requires permanent disability absentee voter list to be confidential and not publicly posted.
Extends access to provisional ballots to those voting absentee and to all public elections in Missouri (would extend to municipal elections).
Expands buffer zone from 25-ft to 50 feet.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA KROLL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 10:11 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 1871.

I am testifying today as a Missouri voter who cares deeply about fair, accessible, and well run elections.

One part of this bill that I strongly support is the reinstatement of Missouri’s presidential preference primary. Restoring the primary gives voters a direct voice in presidential elections and brings Missouri back into the national nominating process. That matters to people who want their vote to count at every level, including the top of the ticket.

The bill also brings more structure and consistency to how elections are administered statewide. Clearer rules for provisional ballots, absentee voting timelines, and election procedures can help build public trust when they are implemented carefully, fairly, and consistently.

At the same time, strict voter identification requirements continue to create barriers for some Missourians, especially seniors, rural residents, and people with limited access to transportation or documentation. Any election law should make it easier to vote securely, not harder. Safeguards should be strengthened to ensure no one is turned away because of administrative hurdles.

I appreciate that this bill represents a major overhaul of our current election system. It is my hope that these changes are paired with appropriate funding to reduce the financial burden on local entities and to ensure fair and equal training for election judges, so confusion is minimized and elections are administered consistently across the state.

Finally, changes to candidate qualifications and filing rules should be handled with care. Election laws should protect the integrity of the process without being used to exclude voices or create unnecessary legal disputes that distract from voters’ needs.

HB 1871 contains positive steps, especially restoring the presidential primary, but it should also ensure fairness, access, and practicality for voters and local election officials.

For these reasons, I support this bill, with the hope that the concerns raised here are addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Kroll**



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: RILEY T MCEVOY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:07 PM

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Hello my name is Riley and I support this legislation's expansion of voter options in this bill. From something I never even knew about in the form of presidential preference in party primaries, something that will directly impact my family and I such as with an extension on absentee ballots. My Mother is between homes at the moment so knowing that she will have a greater access to a ballot is heartening, both for her and anyone else that could be going through this. One day it might even be myself if misfortune prevails. This bill honestly feels like an expansion on our right to vote, rather than an effort to police the privilege of voting.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:23 AM	
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SANDRA COX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 7:35 PM	
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I am in favor or extending the early voting time and other provisions of this bill. As an elderly person having the opportunity to vote early is important.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH A. SWISHER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 2:16 PM
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I'm for making it easier to vote and protecting confidential voters' information. This looks like it would do both.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH MAYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:47 AM

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I strongly support the passage of this bill and the benefits it will bring to the integrity and importance of elections in Missouri



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SEEMA CHAWLA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:27 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am writing in support of House Bill 1871 and respectfully urge the committee to give this bill a “do pass” recommendation.

HB 1871 makes practical and voter-focused improvements to Missouri’s election process by expanding access and participation while maintaining election integrity. Extending the no-excuse absentee voting period from two weeks to four weeks gives voters greater flexibility to participate in elections, particularly those with work schedules, caregiving responsibilities, health concerns, or transportation barriers. This change also helps reduce Election Day congestion and eases administrative pressure on local election authorities.

In addition, reinstating a statewide presidential preference primary gives Missouri voters a chance to meaningfully participate in the presidential nomination process and takes the administrative burden away from the state’s political parties.

These provisions promote fairness, accessibility, and participation without favoring any political party or candidate. HB 1871 represents a balanced approach that benefits voters, election officials, and the democratic process as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask for your support of HB 1871.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SHERRY L BUCHANAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 2:41 PM	
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These changes to elections appear to benefit voters. Having presidential primaries is the fairest way to endorse candidates, giving everyone who wants to vote a chance to weigh in.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SKYLER HAWKINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:36 PM
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I respectfully submit my testimony in support of HB1871 that expands no excuse absentee voting from two weeks to four weeks and reinstates the presidential primary. Expanding absentee voting and bringing back and election style primary would give more Missourian the time to cast our ballots at a time the fits around our lifestyles. We want to encourage civic engagement and broadening absentee ballot voting and and reinstating the presidential primary give more Missourians accessibility to be apart of the policies and politicians who make those choices for us. To dismiss the advancement of HB 1871 is a direct attack from our lawmakers that goes against what is best for Missourians. Now more than ever, Missourians are waking up and paying attention -- what you as politicians do with your voice and your vote DOES matter and we the people are watching.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SLOAN COWELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:43 AM	
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I support this bill. Early voting allows all voters to participate in the election process. Reinstating the presidential primary will also improve the process.



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TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SPRING BRADLEY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 5:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am testifying in support of this legislation to increase the early voting window and to reinstate the Presidential primary in the state of Missouri.

Early voting facilitates voter participation. Not everyone is able to go to the polls on Election Day. This can be due to work restrictions, travel away from their home districts, illness, or natural disasters or emergencies. By extending the timeframe for early voting, more voters will be able to take part in the democratic process. It also reduces stress on election workers and makes elections less vulnerable to disruption.

A presidential primary encourages greater participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods while caucuses have a limited window for participation and have seen low turnout.

In Newton County, Missouri in 2024, voter turnout for the caucus and primary was abysmal. Only 385 voters took part in the Republican caucus, and only 93 voters turned out for the Democratic primary election, both held in March 2024. We have a population of over 59,000 people, so less than 500 people, or less than 1% of the population made the decisions for the rest. These events were held on irregular voting days in venues that are not customary voting locations. There was little information made available regarding the caucus and the primary, which reduced voter turnout. I know voters who felt uncomfortable with the Republican caucus event because their individual votes would not be anonymous and private, so they did not take part in the event. Holding a primary election for all political parties on a single, customary date, with private ballots will increase voter turnout and participation.

I urge Missouri legislators to vote in favor of this bill in order to encourage Missouri voters to take part in the democratic process.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 8:12 PM	
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While in favor of the overall bill, I hope it will be amended in committee to reject the expansion of the electioneering prohibition zone outside polling places. It would be great for demarcation of the zone to be required as well.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN KOHLHAGEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 11:17 PM	
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The State of MO should make voting as accessible as possible to all citizens. HB 1871 improves access so that more citizens can exercise their most important duty of voting and sharing their opinions.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TARA STIGALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:12 AM	

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I am writing in support of HB1871. This bill strengthens Missouri’s election system by improving accessibility, enhancing administrative efficiency, and protecting voter privacy while maintaining election integrity.

I appreciate the Committee’s consideration of the following points in favor of this legislation:
 Restoring the presidential preference primary gives Missouri voters a direct and meaningful voice in the presidential nominating process.

Allowing more time for no-excuse absentee voting is a practical improvement for all Missourians. This expansion increases convenience without compromising security and aligns Missouri with many other states that already offer longer early voting periods.

Moving same-day registration to election authority offices reduces pressure on local polling places, improves verification accuracy, and ensures new voters receive the appropriate ballot. This adjustment enhances administrative efficiency while maintaining access and encourages new voters to participate without facing lengthy obstacles.

A larger buffer zone helps ensure voters can enter and exit polling places free from undue influence, pressure, or disruptions. This promotes a calm, orderly voting environment and reinforces the neutrality of polling locations. I wish the buffer zone could be significantly greater as it is incredibly disruptive to the voting experience.

HB1871 is a balanced, thoughtful bill that enhances voter access, strengthens election administration, and improves the overall voting experience for Missourians. I respectfully urge the Committee to advance this bill. Thank you for your time and for your work on behalf of Missouri voters.

Sincerely,
 Tara Stigall



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:10 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Early voting facilitates voter participation.

It reduces stress on election workers and makes elections less vulnerable to disruption.

A presidential primary encourages greater participation as voters can access primaries over longer voting periods while caucuses have a limited window for participation and have seen low turnout.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: ACLU MO - AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WINIFRED COLWILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/11/2026 10:42 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I support HB 1871 because it facilitates voter participation by increasing the period of absentee voting from two to four weeks and reinstates Missouri's presidential primary. Records show that Presidential primaries have higher turnout than caucuses because the process is simpler and does not require voters to be present to participate.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ALI GRAEFF		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:49 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

**Strongly oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh.
 It hikes costs. Restricts freedoms. Favors bureaucracy over transparency.
 Reject it outright.**

**Reinstate Primary?
 Big Mistake.
 Ditches cost-saving caucuses.
 Burden taxpayers with millions.
 Adds red tape. No real gains.
 Divert funds from roads, schools.**

**Extend Absentee Voting?
 Chaos Ahead.
 Stretches from 2 to 4 weeks.
 Overloads officials. Risks errors, abuse.
 Breaks chain-of-custody. Erodes trust.
 Current system works—don't expose vulnerabilities.**

**Curb Write-Ins?
 Kill Democracy.
 Demands formal declarations, even in empty races.
 Silences grassroots upstarts.
 Empowers party insiders. Limits voter voice.**

**Expand Buffer Zones?
 Stifle Speech.
 Doubles from 25 to 50 feet.
 Pushes polls, advocacy away.
 Chills free expression. Deepens distrust.**

**Shift Tabulator Tests?
 Risk Integrity.
 Moves to one week prior.
 Ignores last-minute glitches—updates, failures.
 Undermines vote counts. No good reason.**

Hide Absentee Lists?

Invite Suspicion.

Blanket secrecy for disabled voters' apps.

Cuts accountability. Blocks scrutiny.

Opens doors to fraud, duplicates.

Other Flaws?

Pile On Confusion.

Shifts deadlines. Allows dual runs.

Adds tax hurdles for St. Louis candidates.

Hits low-income hopefuls hardest.

Bottom Line: Fix Nothing, Break Plenty.

Spikes costs. Shrinks freedoms. Kills trust.

Missouri elections thrive—don't regress.

Vote NO on HB 1871. Prioritize real fixes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMANDA HICKENBOTTOM-CONNER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:22 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill allows for expansion of early voting days and other early voting measures. This bill is dangerous to those of us interested in election integrity. Instead of attempting to create more loopholes that could be exploited by those with nefarious intent, we should be cracking down on possible election fraud and tightening the procedures for elections in general. I feel this bill is in direct conflict with my concerns about election integrity which is why I cannot support it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY DECLUE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:14 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I do not believe we should be instituting the Presidential Preferential Primary, because it is an extra expense for the tax payers, and not binding. I am opposed to extending the absentee voting, because it creates an avenue for further error and abuse of our elections. I see no reason to extend the electioneering from 25ft to 50ft, either.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY M. CASTRO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANDREA SHRUM		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:01 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ANNETTE SIEVE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 4:04 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BECKY WOODS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 4:54 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA ALLEN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:14 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

"I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this."



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA HOPFER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:22 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose this bill



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: BYRON KEELIN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-402-0655	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 2			
CITY: BALLWIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63022
EMAIL: freedomprinciplemo@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 5:54 AM	

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I am submitting this statement in strong opposition to HB1871. This legislation is projected to cost taxpayers between \$10 million and \$15 million, which is a significant and unnecessary burden, particularly at a time when fiscal discipline is crucial for our state. Implementing these proposed changes will stretch public resources and direct funds toward measures that do not improve our election process.

Furthermore, I oppose any extension of early or absentee voting to four weeks. While proponents may claim this enhances voter access, the reality is that it will substantially increase election administration costs and raise the potential for abuse or compromise of ballot security. Longer voting periods make oversight more difficult, creating greater opportunities for misconduct and errors that undermine faith in our system.

I am also concerned about the provision to extend buffer zones from 25 to 50 feet for poll workers. This move could potentially violate free speech rights by unnecessarily restricting access around polling places. Additionally, it could jeopardize poll worker safety by making it harder for them to respond quickly to issues or to remain connected to the voting area.

Finally, I want to highlight the serious risk posed by compressing the mandatory tabulator testing period to just one week before the election. This limited window increases the chance that last-minute technical issues will not be detected or resolved in time, thus undermining the reliability and integrity of the entire election process. Technical problems left unaddressed due to a shortened testing schedule could directly impact the accuracy of the vote count, reducing public trust in our electoral outcomes.

For all these reasons—the high cost to taxpayers, increased risk to ballot security, potential infringement on free speech, threats to poll worker safety, and the undermining of election reliability—I urge you to reject HB1871. Thank you for considering my testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE MANNELL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:03 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

As a concerned taxpayer, I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, curbs voter freedoms, and prioritizes bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it entirely.

Reinstating the presidential primary burdens taxpayers with millions in costs, reversing savings from caucuses. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending no-excuse absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining authorities and eroding trust without need.

Write-in changes require declarations even in unopposed races, stifling grassroots challenges and empowering insiders.

Expanding buffer zones to 50 feet infringes on free speech, chilling advocacy when trust is low.

Shifting tabulator testing to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, undermining reliability.

Confidentiality for disability absentee lists reduces accountability, inviting suspicion and fraud risks.

Other changes, like filing shifts and dual runs, confuse voters; St. Louis tax receipts burden lower-income candidates.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Missouri's system is secure—reject this and focus on real reforms.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CHARLES GIRGIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 12:34 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in high opposition to this legislation because of the increased costs to taxpayers, disingenuous open party primary, and the reduction in election security
For all these reasons—the high cost to taxpayers, increased risk to ballot security, potential infringement on free speech, threats to poll worker safety, not a closed party primary as demonstrated during caucus, and the undermining of election reliability—I urge you to reject HB1871. Thank you for considering my testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: CYNDIA HAGGARD		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 5:10 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I am submitting completely opposed to HB1871. The projected cost to taxpayers is at a minimum \$10 million at a time when our state budget is already stretched beyond the limit.

I oppose any expansion of both early and absentee voting. Both are unnecessary and will only make it easier to cheat. It also adds unnecessary procedures for the county clerks.

The expansion of electioneering distances from 25' to 50' makes it more difficult for candidates, which is perhaps the intent, but is ill thought out. It compresses available space, increases the danger accordingly, and if there are issues, requires people inside to venture further outside to address problems. 25' has worked for decades. There is no need to change the distance. Perhaps better educating the county clerks would be a more productive endeavor.

With regard to tabulators, the last thing we need is less time to handle issues. In my county, at least three tabulators arrived at polling locations WITH VOTES ALREADY ON THEM! Our clerk obviously needs more time to ensure election integrity, not less.

For all of the above reasons, I am steadfastly opposed to HB871. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DANA BUTLER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 1:33 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Missouri's system is secure—reject this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DEBORAH ZUMWALT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 4:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DEBRA STEFANSKI		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 7:22 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Why we're opposed to HB 1871 (key points):

Would establish a taxpayer-funded presidential "preference" primary, but HB 1871 still requires the parties to hold caucuses/conventions afterward to select national delegates (the national convention makes the nomination). The bill primarily requires the state to pay for a "preference" vote and then report the totals to party leadership—a taxpayer-funded beauty contest.

Expands "no-excuse" in-person absentee/early voting to roughly 4 weeks, moving Missouri toward a long election "season" with more chain-of-custody risk and more disputes.

Doubles the electioneering buffer zone from 25 feet to 50 feet, giving hostile local officials more room to push citizen groups and grassroots voices farther away from polling places.

HB 1871 also addresses 'testing' of automatic tabulators (§115.233), but it still entrenches reliance on machine counts—and Missouri should be moving toward maximum transparency and citizen-verifiable counting, not longer election seasons and bigger systems to manage.

Omnibus "take-it-or-leave-it" package: bundles a few decent cleanup items with major policy shifts that deserve separate, transparent votes.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DIANA IJAMES		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 6:33 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

ATTENTION ANT ARMY: ACTION NEEDED BEFORE 8 am tomorrow!

Peggy McGaugh’s election bill HB1871 will have a House Hearing tomorrow morning at 8am. Her bill would change testing requirements of tabulators, would return us to a presidential primary, lengthen absentee voting to a whole month before the election, and expand provisional voting.

PLEASE click this link ???? OPPOSE HB 1871

https://witness.house.mo.gov/Default.aspx?noticeid=10955&fbclid=IwVERDUAPSTTVIeHRuA2FibQlxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwwNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAAR6esYt0inWPe5p-FCw44IXe7O1u9Y_J_AbTmAGIZJ1--NsKWZmxmfArSUx_pQ_aem_J4bq4Kh3TySH9cvVqQeIJA

Feel free to copy/paste or write your own!

“I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this.”



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: DORIS WURTZ		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 2:55 PM
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I am opposed to the HR 1871 bill for several reasons especially the extension of the time to submit a vote to four weeks. We should be thinking of a 1 day vote holiday so there would be no excuse to vote with the exception of military and those to be in a special marked return. Also the extension of 50 ft from current 25 foot around polling places. In most areas, this would limit parking spaces for handicapped and older persons. We also need required ID for everyone & make sure only U.S. citizens be allowed to vote. The voting process is expensive enough at present and a bill such as HR1871 would be more costly. VOTE NO! Thank you



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DOWELL KINCAID		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 9:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: EDON SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 1:23 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ESTHER YODER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 5:08 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

"I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Missouri's system is secure—reject this."



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GARY FARRAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:04 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GARY RIDENHOUR		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 7:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HB 1871. Paper hand counted ballots only.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GERI THWING		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:12 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Too much Bureaucracy, not transparent, too expensive



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GORDEN SHERYL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:58 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Expands elections to a 4 week season which causes additional chain of custody risks. More reliance on machine counts which is not transparent. Along with a 'take it or leave it' omnibus package. How does this reassure any kind of election integrity for Missourians? Please reject this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JACKIE PECK		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:06 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose the extension of in-person no-excuse absentee voting from 2 weeks to 4 weeks in HB 1871.

Longer early voting increases risks of errors, coercion, and fraud due to reduced supervision and weaker chain-of-custody compared to precinct voting on Election Day. It strains election resources, diffuses turnout, and erodes public confidence. Missouri's current 2-week period already provides sufficient flexibility.

I urge you to ****reject the 4-week extension**** and instead pursue these reforms to strengthen election integrity:

- Paper ballots only
- Hand-counted paper ballots
- In-person elections (no mass mail ballots)
- Return to precinct voting
- One-day Election Day (Make it a holiday)
- Strict voter ID requirement
- Local control over voter rolls

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JAN FARRAR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:02 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNIE CHATMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER OLSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 6:11 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I STRONGLY oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily. Elections should be held ON ELECTION DAY.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JENNIFER SPENA		PHONE NUMBER: 816-536-0398	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: FREEDOM PRINCIPLE MO		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 13305 E PRAIRIE DR			
CITY: PECULIAR		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64078
EMAIL: jennyspena@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:40 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The results of the implementation of this bill could be the loss of millions of tax dollars used to foot the bill for the various aspects — in particular the presidential preference primary, which does not bind the delegates. Adding weeks to the absentee ballot process also allows the possibility of more voter abuse and fraud. Pushing the guard limit to 50 feet rather than 25 feet from the polling place cuts back interaction between voters and candidate participants.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JIM BOSCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:08 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Leave our election laws alone!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JIMMY THWING		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:26 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HB 1871! Bad bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JO WHITBY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:02 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

"I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this."



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOEL NELSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:12 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HB1871. I do not want to return to a presidential selection primary, and do not want an extended voting period to be made available.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JUDITH MOOREFIELD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 10:05 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This is an Omnibus “take-it-or-leave-it” package: bundles a few decent cleanup items with major policy shifts that deserve separate, transparent votes.

I strongly oppose this bill which does NOT make our elections more transparent and verifiable and I urge you to oppose it as well.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE AUBUCHON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:11 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

We need tighter election regulation, not what this bill is proposing. Same day elections, paper ballots and show ID. Hand count. Would be helpful



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN GRAY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:01 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose this bill whole heartedly !



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHY S DAVIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:15 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo. NI,NO,NO!!!			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATIE STICKMAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 6:15 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEVAN AND DIANA TURNER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:12 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

We oppose HB 1871. It doubles the no-excuse in-person absentee window (early voting) from about 2 weeks to 4 weeks before election day. Taxpayers should not underwrite party nominating contests and should be left to the parties to determine their candidates through caucuses and vetting. Free speech will also be impacted by increasing the electioneering zone from 25 to 50 feet.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KEVIN PITMAN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 6:54 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIM SINCOX		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:15 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LORRI BOSCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:09 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

Leave election laws alone.
I oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LOUIS MARTIN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:20 PM	

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.
HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this.”**



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARSHA GREER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:44 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I oppose all aspects of HB1871. Primaries will be costly. Absentee voting is too long. Tabulator reliability is harmed by only one week of testing prior to voting. Reject it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MEIKE ATON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 11:04 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

**Election need to happen on one day, in person, with ID, paper ballots only! Hand counted!
It used to be that way, we can do it again!**

Anything else opens opportunities for election fraud!



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA THOMAS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 6:08 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am completely opposed to HB1871. The projected cost to taxpayers is at a minimum \$10 million at a time when our state budget is already stretched beyond the limit !
We CANT have more time for cheating with early and absentee voting. Both are unnecessary and will only make it easier to cheat. It also adds unnecessary procedures for the county clerks.

The expansion of electioneering distances from 25' to 50' makes it more difficult for candidates, which is perhaps the intent, and shame on the legislators, who were once candidates themselves to hamper other candidates!!. 25' has worked for decades. There is no need to change the distance. Perhaps better educating the county clerks would be a more productive endeavor.

With regard to tabulators, the last thing we need is less time to handle issues. They can be a useful tool to validate hand-counting, but should NOT be used in any other manner than that!

For all of the above reasons, I am steadfastly opposed to HB871. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL COMPTON	PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ACT FOR MISSOURI	TITLE:	
ADDRESS:		
CITY: WARRENSBURG	STATE: MO	ZIP: 64093
EMAIL: mike@act4mo.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 1:16 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Compton and I am providing testimony in opposition to SB 836. SB 836 is an elections omnibus that combines multiple major policy changes into one bill, including reinstating a statewide presidential preference primary funded by taxpayers, expanding early voting, widening provisional-ballot procedures and signature matching, and expanding electioneering restrictions near polling places.

1) SB 836 creates a taxpayer-funded, non-binding “presidential preference primary”

SB 836 re-establishes a statewide presidential preference primary in early March of presidential election years—paid for by the state—while also making clear that the real delegate-selection process occurs later through party caucuses and conventions under party rules. The bill does not require delegates to be bound by primary results.

That means the state would be paying for what amounts to a non-binding straw poll—an “official-looking” election that does not necessarily determine anything binding about the nominee selection. This is poor stewardship of taxpayer dollars and is also misleading to voters who will naturally assume a statewide primary “picks” the nominee or binds delegates in a meaningful way.

If parties want a preference vote, parties should bear the cost and responsibility—not the taxpayers.

2) SB 836 pushes Missouri toward “Election Month” by doubling no-excuse early voting

SB 836 expands no-excuse in-person absentee voting (early voting) from roughly two weeks to four weeks before Election Day (moving the start from the second Tuesday prior to the election to the fourth Tuesday prior).

Expanding the voting window increases administrative strain and expands the opportunity for mistakes, disputes, and chain-of-custody concerns. It also encourages voting before key information is known to the public. Most importantly, it moves Missouri away from the clarity and shared accountability of Election Day and toward a prolonged election period that undermines public confidence.

3) SB 836 expands provisional ballot usage and increases discretionary signature matching

SB 836 expands provisional ballot procedures (including ID-related provisional processes) broadly across public elections, and it relies in part on signature comparison plus registration records for determining whether ballots should be counted in certain cases.

Even if well-intended, this direction increases the number of ballots in a “gray zone,” increases discretion, and risks inconsistent treatment across jurisdictions. In today’s environment—where election confidence is already fragile—Missouri should be simplifying, tightening, and standardizing processes that maximize transparency and reduce discretion.

4) SB 836 expands the electioneering-free zone from 25 feet to 50 feet

SB 836 increases the no-electioneering buffer around polling place doors from 25 feet to 50 feet.

While some buffer is reasonable, expanding it can also empower local officials to selectively restrict lawful political speech and grassroots volunteer activity—especially when enforcement is uneven. This bill increases the risk of viewpoint-based or selective enforcement, which undermines trust.

5) SB 836 is an omnibus elections bill with a generic title that fails transparency

SB 836 bundles many distinct policy decisions—presidential primary funding, early voting expansion, provisional ballot changes, electioneering limits, deadlines, testing rules, and write-in tightening—into one up-or-down vote under a generic “relating to elections” framing.

Even if a court might tolerate that structure, citizens deserve honest notice when the legislature is making big-ticket changes—especially spending decisions and major shifts to voting timelines and ballot handling. Packaging these choices together reduces transparency and accountability.

Conclusion: Vote “Do Pass Not” on SB 836

For these reasons—taxpayer funding for a non-binding party primary, expansion of early voting, increased provisional ballot discretion and signature matching, expansion of electioneering restrictions, and omnibus structure that weakens transparency—I respectfully urge the committee to oppose SB 836.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NATALIE STEPHENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 9:02 AM	
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I oppose this bill for multiple reasons, but especially because it expands the time frame and methods of voting in elections. This compromises the security of our elections.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: PATRICIA KNIGHT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 9:29 PM	
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Isn't Missouri under a budget crisis? This costs too much money. Definitely no to extended absentee/early voting - more time for fraud and how lazy and/or informed are our people? No to 50' - more difficult to monitor and tedious to set this boundary.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RACHEL KAUTZ		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 6:05 PM	

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I am writing to urge HB 1871 be rejected because the changes proposed by the bill are concerning and unwarranted. Below are some examples:

Why change the law to move the established candidacy filing time frame by a week? What does that accomplish and who does it help? It will at the very least create unnecessary confusion.

Why change the law to mandate that tabulators cannot be tested closer than one week to the election date? Best practices would suggest testing as close as possible to election day to ensure reliability and increase voter confidence.

Why change the law to double the time frame for no-excuse voting before the election? Only a few years ago such no-excuse voting was not allowed in Missouri. The very existence of the practice invites debate on election integrity. If a change is needed, it is to return to one-day voting and requested absentee ballots.

Why move the radius for exit polling, electioneering, etc. from 25' to 50'? If applied, this line may cut into or envelop parking spaces. This could create problems in areas where parking is already tight and/or push such outdoor personnel into areas they cannot safely stand.

Such broad ranging and potentially harmful changes will undermine trust in our elections system and induce both confusion and suspicion. Please reject HB 1871.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA SOFOLO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 6:56 AM	
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This only enhances the chance of corruption in the system



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REID STEPHENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:50 PM	
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I strongly oppose HB 1871 because it forces taxpayers to fund political party nominating processes, unnecessarily expands early voting beyond what is needed for access, and doubles electioneering buffer zones in a way that restricts free speech and limits citizen oversight at polling places.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT KELL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:52 PM	

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I oppose all parts of HB1871. It adds costs, limits freedom and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026	
COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RONNA KNETTER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:36 AM	
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As a concerned taxpayer and voter, I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, curbs voter freedoms, and prioritizes bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it entirely.

Reinstating the presidential primary burdens taxpayers with millions in costs, reversing savings from caucuses. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending no-excuse absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining authorities and eroding trust without need.

Write-in changes require declarations even in unopposed races, stifling grassroots challenges and empowering insiders.

Expanding buffer zones to 50 feet infringes on free speech, chilling advocacy when trust is low.

Shifting tabulator testing to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, undermining reliability.

Confidentiality for disability absentee lists reduces accountability, inviting suspicion and fraud risks.

Other changes, like filing shifts and dual runs, confuse voters; St. Louis tax receipts burden lower-income candidates.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Missouri's system is secure—reject this and focus on real reforms.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ROXANE MAGNUS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:41 AM

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I absolutely oppose this Bill. There is no excuse for anyone to be able to vote in the time.frame we have now.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARA GILLILAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:57 PM	
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Absolutely not! There is nothing good that comes from extending voting.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 9:44 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 1871 because it represents a significant, taxpayer-funded expansion of election administration without improving transparency or voter confidence, while introducing unnecessary logistical and security risks.

Key Concerns

Taxpayer-Funded Presidential “Preference” Primary

HB 1871 mandates a state-funded “preference” primary for presidential candidates, while party caucuses or conventions still select delegates. This forces Missouri taxpayers to pay for a non-binding beauty contest that provides minimal value, adds administrative burden, and does not affect the outcome at the national convention.

Extended Early Voting and Chain-of-Custody Risks

The bill expands “no-excuse” in-person absentee/early voting to roughly four weeks. While access is important, this lengthened election season increases opportunities for chain-of-custody issues, administrative errors, and potential disputes, ultimately undermining public confidence in election integrity.

Expanded Electioneering Buffer Zone

HB 1871 doubles the electioneering buffer from 25 to 50 feet. This unnecessarily restricts citizen engagement and grassroots efforts, allowing local officials to push voter education, advocacy, and civic participation farther from polling locations.

Reliance on Machines over Transparency

While the bill includes provisions for automatic tabulator testing (§115.233), it continues Missouri’s reliance on black-box tabulation without citizen-verifiable paper trails. Increasing machine dependence without adding meaningful transparency is a step backward for election security.

Omnibus Structure Lacks Accountability

HB 1871 bundles minor clean-up measures with significant policy changes. Major shifts deserve separate, transparent debate and votes, not hidden in a “take-it-or-leave-it” omnibus bill that limits public scrutiny.

Conclusion

HB 1871 prioritizes administrative expansion and convenience over transparency, verifiable counting, and accountable governance. It shifts significant taxpayer resources toward non-binding processes, extends election periods unnecessarily, and restricts citizen access and oversight.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the House Elections Committee to oppose HB 1871 and consider separate, narrowly focused measures for meaningful election improvements.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:28 AM	
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I oppose HB?1871 because it expands elections administration in ways that risk voter confusion, increased administrative burden, and potential chain-of-custody issues without clear safeguards. Reinstating a taxpayer-funded presidential preference primary imposes costs on the state for what is effectively a non-binding contest. Extending the no-excuse early voting period from two to four weeks lengthens the election season without clear evidence this will improve accuracy or accessibility. Increasing the no-electioneering zone to 50 feet restricts grassroots civic engagement at polling places. Finally, the bill bundles many disparate changes in an omnibus package, which should be considered separately with full public input.
Thank you for considering this testimony.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: STEVEN M GROSS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 10:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

"I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.

Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.

HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this."



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TIM CASHION		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 7:56 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

"I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.

Reinstating the presidential primary costs taxpayers millions, reversing caucus savings. Deadlines add red tape, diverting funds from infrastructure and education.

Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.

Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.

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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TOM WARD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 7:38 AM	

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It is my opinion that HB 1871 undermines election integrity by increasing the likelihood that lawful ballots will be discarded on technical grounds, diverting public money to underwrite internal party business, and chilling core political speech around polling places.? The bill hardens strict photo ID rules and expands a complex provisional ballot regime that makes it more likely eligible voters will be forced into provisional ballots that are later rejected rather than counted, so final results no longer fully reflect the will of qualified voters.? It further requires that provisional ballots cast in the wrong polling place “shall not be counted,” placing all risk on the voter even when confusion stems from administrative error, polling-place changes, or redistricting, which creates artificial undervotes and erodes confidence that every legitimate ballot is included in the tally.?

At the same time, HB 1871 reinstates a statewide presidential preference primary funded by the state for the purpose of generating a preference signal that parties then translate into delegates through their own privately controlled caucuses and conventions, effectively using public resources to perform what is fundamentally party nominating business.? The bill compounds this misuse of public funds by allowing party organizations to control ballot access through a substantial party filing fee and party-driven signature requirements, giving party committees gatekeeping power over who appears on a taxpayer-financed ballot.?

HB 1871 also chills core political speech by expanding the “no electioneering” zone from 25 to 50 feet from the polling-place entrance, sweeping in sidewalks, parking areas, and other traditional forums for peaceful political advocacy so that voters, volunteers, and civic groups risk criminal penalties for engaging in ordinary election-day expression.? By tightening rules and penalties on sample ballots, campaign materials, and conduct near polling places, the bill heightens the danger that routine advocacy is misclassified as a class four election offense, encouraging self-censorship and silence precisely when and where political speech is most vital to an informed, participatory democracy. For these reasons I oppose this bill.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1871		DATE: 1/13/2026
COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TRACY R WELBORN		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 11:11 AM

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I strongly oppose HB 1871. This bill adds unnecessary costs, curbs voter freedoms, and prioritizes bureaucracy over transparency in our elections. It should be rejected entirely to protect taxpayer dollars and democratic participation.

Reinstating the presidential preference primary on the first Tuesday in March (new sections 115.755 to 115.785) burdens taxpayers with millions in additional costs, reversing the savings achieved when Missouri switched to party-run caucuses in 2022. That change saved an estimated \$10 million per cycle by shifting responsibility to political parties. Reinstating a state-funded primary lessens citizen involvement in the election process, replacing community-driven caucuses with a government-managed event that chills political debate and grassroots engagement.

The bill's tightened deadlines for election notifications and sample ballots (amendments to 115.125 and 115.127) add layers of red tape, requiring court orders for late changes and diverting limited funds from critical areas like infrastructure and education to administrative overhead and potential legal fees. Extending no-excuse absentee voting to four weeks (changes to 115.277 and 115.284) risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining local election authorities with increased processing demands and eroding public trust in the system without evidence of need. Our current absentee rules are balanced and secure; this expansion invites unnecessary complications.

Requiring declarations for write-in candidates even in unopposed races (amendments to 115.453) stifles grassroots challenges, making it harder for everyday citizens to participate and empowering party insiders to control outcomes without competition.

Expanding buffer zones around polling places to 50 feet (updates to 115.637 on election offenses) infringes on free speech rights, chilling advocacy and public discourse near voting sites at a time when trust in elections is already low. The current 25-foot zone is sufficient to maintain order without suppressing expression.

Shifting tabulator testing to one week prior to elections (changes to 115.233) risks unexamined last-minute issues, undermining the reliability of our voting machines and potentially leading to disputes or delays that could have been avoided with earlier scrutiny.

Granting confidentiality to disability absentee voter lists (amendments to 115.284) reduces accountability, inviting suspicion and fraud risks by limiting oversight without meaningfully enhancing privacy protections.

Other changes, such as filing shifts (to 115.306 and 115.351) and allowing dual runs for office, confuse voters and complicate the ballot, while requiring St. Louis candidates to submit tax receipts creates barriers for lower-income individuals, further entrenching inequities in who can run for office.

HB 1871 creates more problems than it solves: higher costs, fewer freedoms, and less trust in our democratic process. Missouri's election system is already secure—reject this bill and focus on real

reforms that empower voters, not bureaucrats.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: TRAVIS HEINS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 4:15 PM
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This legislation moves election integrity backwards in the state of Missouri. There is no necessity to expand the early voting period beyond what is already allowed. This legislation stands to further the public's distrust of electronics in our elections by shortening the time frame between certification of equipment and election day which could have unintended consequences of interrupting an election if an issue is found with the machines that can not be rectified in such a short time frame. The Missouri legislature needs to be examining solutions to begin the process of removing electronics (tabulators,etc) in the elections -- not furthering them into statute.

Also, political parties are private entities, this is an inappropriate use of government to absorb their primary elections into a government process.

I strongly oppose this bill and I ask that you vote NO.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRAVIS KOCH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 6:07 PM	
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I'm opposed to lengthening the time mail in ballots are allowed . The longer timeframe is just more time to cheat and defraud the election.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Elections			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: VALERIE SWEARINGEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/13/2026 8:31 AM
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I oppose HB1871



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: YVONNE GAROFALO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/12/2026 8:56 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

**"I oppose HB 1871 by Rep. McGaugh. It adds costs, limits freedoms, and favors bureaucracy over transparency. Reject it.
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Extending absentee voting to four weeks risks chaos, errors, and abuse, straining officials and eroding trust unnecessarily.
Write-in changes require declarations in unopposed races, stifling grassroots efforts and empowering insiders.
Buffer zones expanded to 50 feet infringe on free speech, chilling advocacy amid low trust.
Tabulator testing shifted to one week prior risks unexamined last-minute issues, harming reliability.
HB 1871 creates problems: higher costs, fewer freedoms, less trust. Reject this."**